

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

Entered as Second-Class Matter, Postoffice of Honolulu, H. T., Second-Class Matter, Semi-Weekly—Issued Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Subscription Rates:

Per Month.....\$.25 Per Month, Foreign.....\$.35
Per Year.....\$ 3.00 Per Year, Foreign.....\$ 4.00
Payable Invariably in Advance.

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FRIDAY : : : : : FEBRUARY 15.

THE CHINESE BRIBERY CASE.

The customary methods of the Chinese gamblers, in dealing with the Honolulu police department, are revealed this morning to the public of Hawaii in Detective Taylor's revelations of an attempt to bribe him.

As the story shows, the Chinese acted through most of the deal with great shrewdness, but they slipped a cog here and there as they did in their former attempt to bribe Attorney General Andrews, a crime for which their go-between received a long term in prison. Besides making bribery proposals to Mr. Taylor they did so to his wife and also gave Mr. Ayres a clear glimpse of their intent. Finally they paid the Chief of Detectives a small sum of money down which was found on his person when he had left the gamblers' rendezvous, the police, at his instance, having searched him before he went there, to make sure he had no money on his person then, and again searched him after he had left, and found the money the gambler had given to him in the meantime. Going and coming Mr. Taylor was under close and reputable surveillance.

The money received is in the safe at the police station, properly endorsed, and when the courts are through with it it will become a government realization.

It is proper to say that the daily steps in the negotiation between the gamblers and the Chief of Detectives were reported to Sheriff Iaukea, Attorney General Peters and the Advertiser; and that, towards the last, Attorney W. A. Kinney was also consulted. The object was to protect Detective Taylor in case the gamblers, suspecting arrest, should turn around and accuse him of having sought them.

The offer of fourteen hundred dollars a week for permission to run a variety of gambling games which Detective Taylor received, is \$100 less than the offer made to Attorney General Andrews. In the Andrews case the briber said his hui had been paying the police \$2000 per week and thought that sum too much. If the Attorney General would simply not prosecute the cases of gamblers as they came into court—this was before the era of county government—the Chinese would pay him \$1500 per week. A cut of \$100 was made in the Taylor offer.

It was distinctly stated by the Chinese who negotiated with Taylor that the late police administration had been paid sums of corresponding magnitude. It is remembered that gambling in some parts of Chinatown was permitted last year and in other parts prohibited. A sufficient explanation of why this was done may be found in the present requirement that Taylor, in case he should go on the Chinese payroll, should arrest all outside or independent Chinese gamblers, the names of whom and the location of whose games, were to be supplied to him by his protected employers. It was also stipulated that if, for form's sake, any of the privileged gamblers were arrested, the costs of court proceedings should be paid out of the bribe-money received by the Chief of Detectives. If the same rule was insisted on in former years it would account for the orders, invariably given the Brown-Vida force, to make no arrests of gamblers without permission from headquarters. One officer was reported last fall as saying that permission was to be asked, first, of Assistant Sheriff Vida; in his absence of the Chinese police officer and in his absence of Willie Crawford.

The past, as we say, may be interpreted by the Taylor revelations. As to the present, not a game will be run in Chinatown if the unremitting vigilance of the new police can prevent it. As to the future, beyond the term of Sheriff Iaukea, that will depend upon the strength of the determination of the people not to let the police administration of Oahu county lapse into the hands of grafters.

NOT A PERSONAL MATTER.

There is no use in facetiously aggravating an unpleasant incident. Attorney General Peters was not denied the privilege of offering a defense to the Supreme Court's implication that he had treated it with discourtesy. He did not ask for that privilege. Perhaps, as it was but technical if any contempt which was hinted at, the court would not have been bound to hear the Attorney General in his own defense. It is usual, however, to ask a respondent in such case if he has anything to say why he should not be adjudged in contempt of court. As, in the present instance, the court summarily pronounced a reprimand for an offense that, being fully within its knowledge, left nothing to be said, the court probably used its discretion to make the soonest end possible of the unpleasantness.

An explanation of the attitude taken by the court with regard to the carrying out of the Lunal land exchange may be necessary to show that there was no personal feeling in yesterday's utterances from the bench. When an appeal to the United States Supreme Court is taken in the form of a writ of error, the allowance of the writ holds the decree appealed from in abeyance until the appellate court acts. After the issue of the writ the decree of the Territorial Supreme Court would not have had the effect of dissolving the injunction of the Circuit Judge, which would remain in full force. It is partly for this reason that an opinion or decision is required to be followed by a decree, and that time—ten days—was desired by the plaintiff in the Lunal case and granted to him by the Chief Justice, in order to prepare his appeal for allowance immediately upon the filing of the decree, so that there would be no time when the injunction would not be in force. All this was made impossible by the course taken by the Attorney General in having the exchange of land made prior to the decree, so that an injunction would then be futile.

It was in no manner a question of showing proper respect to the Supreme Court, for that tribunal will be respected no more and no less than its course shows that it deserves respect. It was a question of trifling with an injunction before it had been formally dissolved, and thereby cutting off an effective appeal. There was literally nothing to be said in defense of such practice. Certainly the judges were not required to ask the Attorney General what he had to say against their expressing their entire disapproval of the course he had taken.

On the other hand, nobody who knows the Attorney General will discredit the protestation he has made out of court that his action in the matter was taken only after full consideration by himself and the lawyers of his department, and that he did not intend any disrespect to the court but thought he was acting in full conformity with its opinion, which he took as finally disposing of the injunction.

San Francisco seems to be doing pretty well, according to the report of the California Promotion Committee. The following summary of a circular just issued by that body, shows an agreeable condition of progress in the stricken metropolis:

January building permits issued, 787. Value, \$6,822,000.
Total building permits since the fire, 7,734. Value, \$39,621,865.
January permits for permanent buildings, 540.
Total permits for permanent buildings since the fire, 3,629.
January real estate transfers, 770. Value, \$4,000,000.
January postal receipts, \$149,392.69.
January customs receipts, \$752,253.31. Jan., '06, \$606,734.02.
January bank clearings, \$199,352,126.14. Jan., '06, \$180,177,198.67.
Los Angeles bank clearings, \$55,746,930.24. Same, 1906, \$41,641,388.25.
Oakland bank clearings, \$15,279,703.73.
San Jose bank clearings, \$3,387,844.88.

The news that the immigration bill may be amended to prohibit the importation of Japanese coolies is not palatable to the larger business interests here, but if the measure is also made to prevent Japanese laborers now on this soil from going to the mainland, it may do. That course would make our Japanese labor reasonably stationary and not prevent the bringing in of another class of field hands from Europe to supply the gaps made in the Asiatic ranks by death or a return to the fatherland. It is to be presumed that, if the sequestration here of Japanese labor is achieved, it will be in a way to save the dignity of Japan.

THE DELEGATE.

As the majority owner of the Advertiser, I am usually held responsible for editorials in the Advertiser, whether I know anything about them or not.

As I have been in Washington during the last few months, it is probable that those who do not know the facts have inferred that the Advertiser editorial of January 17th last, criticizing the Delegate to Congress, expresses my sentiments.

I desire to say that it not only does not express my opinions, but, as a result of three months' almost daily contact and working with Mr. George B. McClellan, the Secretary to the Delegate, and with the Delegate himself during the time that he has been here, I have been convinced that Hawaii is well and efficiently represented at Washington.

No differentiation should be attempted to be drawn in this connection, between the acts and doings of Mr. McClellan and the Delegate.

Mr. McClellan is here because the Delegate has appointed and keeps him here. They work together well and harmoniously. The team work is efficient, and under the circumstances, no good can come from attempting to assign separate credit for results to either.

I desire to say further that I have seen no disposition on the part of either the Delegate or his assistant, to ignore, discredit or disapprove of the assistance given by those acting unofficially in support of Hawaiian propositions. On the contrary such assistance has been cordially welcomed and acknowledged. For example, the Delegate has personally congratulated me upon the work done in connection with the Hilo breakwater, and I am glad to acknowledge that but for the untiring efforts of the official Hawaiian representation at Washington, and their good standing with officials in and out of Congress, and the kindly disposition manifested toward them by the authorities, the Hilo breakwater item would have had but slight chance of favorable action at this session of Congress.

By and through Delegate Kalaniana'ole Hawaii's interests are being well looked after at Washington and he is entitled to full credit therefor.

LORRIN A. THURSTON.

Washington, D. C., January 29, 1907.

The editor of this paper would say that, in making the criticism of which Mr. Thurston properly disclaims responsibility, the sole source of information was the afternoon press dispatch of January 16, announcing the defeat of the Hawaiian fortification item. It appears from a statement given to an evening paper by Delegate Kuhio that this press dispatch was incorrect, a fault that by no means lies with this paper, which took it, as such cablegrams are usually taken, at face value. Had the Associated Press been more particular and complete in its data, no reason would have been found for reflecting on the conduct of Delegate Kuhio. It appears from Mr. Thurston's statement that the Delegate has done and is doing good work for Hawaii. That is all that is asked of him and if he continues to do so there is no reason why the entire press and the party should not encourage and support him.

JAPANESE SPIES.

That Japanese military spies are here, may be accepted as a matter of course. They are everywhere. Those here are supposed to have been the men who photographed the coast line of Oahu a few years ago and the ones who are watching and investigating every move of the surveyors who are now laying the lines of Honolulu's fortifications. It is of the latter class we wish, particularly, to speak.

It is said that a highly intelligent body of Japanese is represented by recent applicants for menial jobs at Kaimuki—young men of fine address who show no signs of having labored and who make the most indifferent cooks and yardboys. Possibly these are Japanese officers who wish to be near any fortifications which may be built in that neighborhood—and to have an excuse for being there. It is known that men of high rank in the Japanese army and navy do not scruple to take the most humble positions if, thereby, they may gain data of use to the home government. Admiral Evans reports that he found, in the captain of a Japanese battleship, a man who had, not many years before, been his cabin boy; and the Kaiser lately discovered, in the barber who shaved this officers at a military club in Berlin, a colonel on the Japanese general staff.

Some weeks ago Mrs. Nakuina of Honolulu employed a servant who knew so little about kitchen work that she had to show him how to boil rice. He was evidently a young man of such high degree that she amused herself by calling him "the Prince." Having occasion to go with him once to a Japanese bank in this city, she was amazed to find all hands, from the manager down, bowing their lowest to him, while he returned but the coldest of nods. He, on his part, always kow-towed to an elderly man who sometimes came to Mrs. Nakuina's house to see him—an old fellow who, under his kimono, was seen to wear a string of medals clear across his breast. The only reason Mrs. Nakuina could think of to account for the supposed military spy living at her house was conveyed by his questions whether, in the event of war between the United States and Japan, the natives would forget their resentments and side with the Americans.

The point we wish to make in this general connection is, that Americans and other householders who are friendly to Americans, would do a patriotic thing by refusing employment, if they live anywhere near projected fortifications, to Japanese who are not of the servant type. The two classes are readily distinguishable. Furthermore, information about such people should be promptly lodged with the officers of the army here or with the military department of the Territory. Lessees of land near the forts or in the brush back of Camp McKinley, where large numbers of idle Japanese are said to be living, should also take precautions.

LESSONS OF THE EXPOSE.

The second known attempt to bribe the officers of the law to permit wide-open Chinese gambling, has resulted in the complete exposure of the scheme and in the cutting out of some wholesome work for the grand jury. The lesson is one which the Chinese law-breaking classes ought to profit by as showing that all police are not alike. Evidently Lee Let and his kind, from long experience, judged otherwise. One of the most startling features of the Taylor affair is the cynical indifference with which the Chinese regarded the idea that the police department could not be bribed. They seemed to think such a thing not worth discussing; it was an unheard-of notion, worthy of visionary "foreign devils" but not of practical yellow men of long experience with the guardians of the peace.

There is a lesson also in this exposed scandal to Chinese gamblers who think that they are safe from the treachery of their own countrymen. Readers of the Taylor exposure must have remarked upon the anxiety of the Lee Let hui to get outside Chinese gamblers arrested. That delectable outfit was ready to inform against all other yellow men who might run banking or percentage games and to pay Chinese to spy upon them. Doubtless the Chinese arrested for gambling during the former police administration will know whom to thank.

Finally there is a lesson to police grafters generally in what may be called the mobility of fatal secrets. Lee Let had no compunctions about giving his former beneficiaries away. He cheerfully tossed off incriminating statements, touching individuals on the Brown-Vida police force, which may easily suffice to land them in jail. Was there ever a better illustration of the fact that the rascal who takes another one into his confidence might as well sign a confession?

ARTIFICIAL SAFETY VALVES.

It is an interesting fact, as suggesting a means of protection from earthquakes of a certain kind, that Southern California has been comparatively free of them since boring for oil became such a great industry in Los Angeles. Before that time earthquakes, such as may be detected only by the seismograph, were almost continuous and these were punctuated every few months by sharp quakes which caused the atmosphere to smell of gas. Now Southern California, while not immune from seismic phenomena, has so little of them that the fear of any great calamity like that of San Francisco and Valparaiso seems to have departed.

It is quite possible that many of the temblors which alarm Spain and Northern Africa, Asia Minor and certain parts of South America could be made innocuous by the wellbore. It does not require a great stretch of the imagination to believe that the earthquake which devastated the Ohio valley in 1812 was traceable to the oil fields which have since been found in that region. We know, as a human race, very little of the resources under foot; and if deep wellboring were more general, the inhabitants of the earth's crust might be considerably safer than they are and richer withal.

Nature has made some gigantic safety-valves, most of which have been stopped up. Perhaps if man would make a lot of little ones the globe would not stir so often in its sleep.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Yesterday was the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and we may assume that the annual growth of anecdotes about him was harvested by the American press and bound into sheaves that contained about as much of tares as of wheat. Gradually, a Lincoln myth is growing up through which the features of the real man can scarcely be discerned. Indeed, the myth is dual. One represents Lincoln with the "Silent face of Socrates" and the other with the "ethereal transcendence of Plato;" one as a man of Rabelaisian humor, the other as a haggard martyr bearing patiently the burdens of the nation. Probably the martyr picture will survive and become as fixed in history as the steel engraving we know of as Washington. Washington has become faultless and the world has forgotten his profanity and his gallantries among women; Lincoln is to pass into legend as a demigod, looming larger and less human as the ages pass.

The one thing we have that enables this generation to hold to Lincoln as a man, and realize a little of what he really was like, is the literature of his public life—his addresses and State papers. The issues they deal with are not far away; the Lincoln manner of dealing with them is still the standard of American forensics and of official correspondence. A Lincoln speech dissolves the myth; a Lincoln letter brings the shrewd, able, common-sense Illinois lawyer back to our daily life again. Washington's speeches and letters seem to be antique; Lincoln's are contemporary. Some day they will seem antique too and then the features of the real Lincoln will vanish among the classic faces of the Pantheon.

In urging Congress to grant money for fortifications Secretary Taft therefore can not tell all he knows, and this year he has not told Congress one-tenth of what he knows. If it were said bluntly and openly that the officers of the army and navy believe that a conflict is to come with any nation, there would be diplomatic friction and the war of the future might become the war of the present. The War and State Departments are in possession of information which leads them to believe that if Japan were on a sound financial basis trouble between that country and the United States would not be a question of the future, but of the present.—Washington Cablegram.

Readers of the Advertiser since a week or two before the President's message came out will follow the above with a strong sense of reminiscent interest. They have heard something very like it before.

The attitude of the San Francisco Chronicle is one of derision towards the possibility of serious trouble with Japan under any circumstances. Readers of the Chronicle, of whom there are many in Hawaii, do not need to be reminded that Mr. De Young's influential journal has always been that way. It never troubles trouble till trouble troubles it. Not to go further back for examples, the Chronicle could not be convinced, until it heard the guns, that there would be a war between the United States and Spain. The idea of there being a Boer war was intolerable to it and it so scouted the prospect of trouble between Japan and Russia that it made no preparations, as other great journals did, to be represented in the field if hostilities should ensue. Its current policy is off the same piece. In the present instance the course of events may favor it; nevertheless it is generally short-sighted in respect to any militant trend of events.

One expects silly remarks from the Bulletin on any subject, but the record may be said to have been reached when that paper criticizes the Chief of Detectives for not persuading a Chinese bribe-giver, who was managing a corrupt deal, to expose himself, at the critical moment, to the observation of a third party. Considering what the Bulletin can do when it really attempts to make a point, we may only wonder that it did not assail Mr. Taylor because he failed to hire a hall and get Lee Let to pay over the \$50 in the presence of the audience.

The organ of the old Brown administration naturally finds fault with Iaukea and Taylor for arresting gamblers during Chinese New Year's. Such an outrage was never committed but once before in recent years and that was when George Carter, as Secretary of the Territory, compelled Brown to do his duty. Ordinarily the Brown police were blinder about this quarter of the moon, if that were possible, than at any other time; but precedents of that kind, under an honest administration of police, are honored in the breach and not in the observance.

Why should it be supposed that Harry Thaw has a sound mind? Any boy, brought up as he has been, could only retain a healthy intellect, if he had it in the first place, by sheer good luck. With a great income to spend and the habit of squandering it in the tenderloin on the worst things that Avernian thoroughfare has to sell, young Thaw has given his nervous system the hardest run it could have for his money. Apparently he is a played-out degenerate whom society ought long ago to have protected itself from by sending to the asylum.

There are ten thousand Asiatics on this island who gamble more or less. If their average outlay is only ten cents per diem the total is \$1000 a day. Fourteen hundred dollars a week would not be much to pay for the license of police protection for such a flourishing business.

Nearly one hundred thousand white settlers went to California in 1906. Thousands went to Canada. How many came here? If none to speak of, why not?

BUSINESS LOCALS.

(From Wednesday's Advertiser.)

Practically every member of Company D, N. G. H., of Hilo, will accompany the company into camp at Wahiawa next week.

Secretary Wood has been advised that the Hawaiian excursion continues to attract a great deal of attention in Los Angeles, so much so that references to it are being used for advertising by the merchants of that city.

E. B. McStocker and W. L. Castle left on the Mauna Loa yesterday for South Kona, Hawaii. They have gone in connection with work of the Kona Agricultural Co., Kona Development Co., South Kona Coffee Co. and the West Hawaii Railway Co.

Miss Mary H. Krout, who has recently been delivering discourses before Honolulu assemblies on such subjects as popular prose and poetry writers, is a most welcome visitor. She has traveled extensively, studied the themes of her lectures carefully and written much for newspapers and magazines besides. Those who have had the pleasure of attending her entertainments regard such experiences as literary treats.—Paradise.

Peace on earth and good will towards Chinamen is supposed to be particularly in force in Chinatown just at present, but a remark overheard during the passing of the parade yesterday morning seems to show that a little of the long rivalry outlived the cracking of the firecrackers on midnight of Monday. The speaker was a Chinaman with a good command of English, who remarked to a haole friend. "Well, the old Bow Wong went make last night and here are all the children out to the funeral."

(From Thursday's Advertiser.)

L. L. McCandless is going to storm the mainland with circulars on the Lunal land deal.

It is reported that a Japanese syndicate is negotiating for the purchase of the Zoo site, which is on the market. Stanley Haze Healan Ashford, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Ashford, has the promise of Delegate Kuhio to be the next representative of Hawaii to enter the Annapolis Naval Academy.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, of Lovelace and Galconda, Nev., arrived on the Sierra and will spend about two

weeks in Honolulu, making a side trip to the volcano. Mr. Smith is a prominent banker in Nevada.

Mr. and Mrs. George Reynolds leave today for a trip to the Sandwich Islands. They will sail from San Francisco January 17. The trip is being taken with a view to the improvement of Mr. Reynolds' health, which has been falling of late.—Salt Lake Republican.

The residents at the Molokai settlement are taking up a subscription among themselves to raise money for the purchase of the animals now at the Kaimuki Zoo. They hope to have their fund added to by some philanthropist to make up the required amount.

C. A. Ginaca, of Los Angeles, and a brother of H. Ginaca, of this city, who invented the cane loader, is a guest of the Young Hotel.

According to the Japanese newspapers recently received here, the squadron is due about Monday next. No official advices have been received at the consulate.

Humane Officer Rose Davison brought eight mangy dogs to the police station yesterday, some of them utterly hairless and covered with sores. Many of the cubs had been concealed in houses by their Hawaiian owners.

R. C. Lydecker recently found in the archives a petition presented by T. Metcalf to the Hawaiian Legislature in 1855 offering for the sum of \$10,000 to clear the islands of American filibusters. He was willing to bond himself for \$60,000 that this would be done.

Mr. Geo. W. Fisher, manager of the Fisher Lumber Co., of Oakland, and for many years prominently connected with the lumber industry of California, is a guest at the Alexander Young Hotel. Mr. Fisher was an incoming passenger by the Sierra and is seeking rest and recreation in the islands.

Captain Ottwell, the engineering officer, wrote an extended communication to Governor Carter urging that the site for the front range beacon to the harbor entrance desired by his predecessor, Captain Slattery, be chosen. The army proposes putting the site in the road, but that does not meet with the views of either Governor Carter or Superintendent of Public Works Holleway.